



*Fall & Winter
2022-2023*

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Report to Citizens

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022



*Fall & Winter
2022-2023*

TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND
Newsletter

Experience Ocean City this Fall & Winter!
SPECIAL EVENTS PG. 10-11

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30th Winterfest Lights
A Walk-Through Holiday Event with Thousands of Sparkling Lights PG. 10-11

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

To the Citizens of Ocean City, Maryland:

The Town of Ocean City, Maryland (the “Town”) is not only a popular mid-Atlantic tourist destination; it’s a year-round and seasonal home to those who enjoy living on a slender barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and wide coastal bays.

The following pages summarize the Town’s finances as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022; showing how your tax dollars and service fees, as well as external grants and other funding sources, were utilized to provide the services you depend on and improve the Town’s service capacity for years to come. In addition to providing financial information, the purpose of this report is to communicate the financial results in an easily readable and understandable format.

The information presented in this report was taken directly from the Town’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended June 30, 2022, which was prepared by the Finance Department. The financial statements included in the ACFR, audited by SB & Company, LLC, provide much more detail, explain certain terminology, and contain disclosures as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We invite you to read the ACFR by downloading it from the Town’s website at www.oceancitymd.gov.



Sincerely,

Richard W. Meehan
Mayor, Ocean City, Maryland

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TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND CITY COUNCIL



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The Town of Ocean City, Maryland Report To Citizens & Newsletter is produced by the Mayor & City Council

Town of Ocean City, Maryland
301 Baltimore Avenue • Ocean City, MD 21842

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ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

The fiscal year was a successful one for the Town, financially, due to the continued expansion of the “shoulder” seasons with various special events, as well as favorable weather, which is always an economic boost for a beach destination.

Bus and tram operations rebounded as restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic ended, with operating revenue increasing nearly \$1.5 million from the prior fiscal year. The Roland E. Powell Convention Center also experienced a resurgence in its operations as pandemic-related capacity limits were removed. Operating revenue for the Convention Center more than doubled from its FY 2021 level.

Ocean City’s 10 miles of clean beaches, 2.5-mile-long boardwalk, and numerous dining and amusement options make it a popular destination for travelers from the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Room taxes have continued to be a large revenue source for the Town, with over \$22 million in taxes, an increase of more than \$3.3 million from FY 2021, collected during the fiscal year.

MAJOR INITIATIVES & DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Runway Rehabilitation Project at Ocean City Municipal Airport

After relocation of the Runway 14 Localizer last year, Runway 14/32 full-depth reconstruction at Ocean City Municipal Airport began in earnest during the summer of 2022. After preparatory site work and grading, the runway was closed and demolition of the existing pavement began. Runway 14/32 is the Airport’s longest runway and had reached the end of its service life. Intensive maintenance on the part of the Town’s Department of Public Works over the last few years had kept the surface fully operational until now. The runway’s length of 4,074 feet will remain the same; however, its geometry and surface features will be upgraded to meet current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design and safety standards. The total duration for the project is anticipated to be just over 100 days. Runway 02/20, the Airport’s other main runway, which is 3,204 linear feet in length, will remain open for the bulk of this time. There was



a brief period during the month of October when the runway intersection was being rebuilt, which necessitated temporary closure of both runways.

The new runway surface will be grooved full-length for improved braking action in all weather conditions, and will also feature modern visual navigation aids. The visual approach slope indicator landing aids will be replaced with precision approach path indicators. This project also includes a “green” lighting component in the form of new LED edge and approach lighting. Older “direct-bury” cables and transformers will be replaced with “in-conduit” runs and pre-cast flush concrete lighting can bases. Other underground electrical infrastructure will be modernized, including the addition of concrete duct

banks and underground junction plazas, as well as the replacement of both runway circuit’s constant current regulators. Standardized lighted directional signage will replace existing flat plate unlit signage. These improvements will reduce maintenance and electrical utility costs over the coming years.

The bulk of funding for this runway work comes from the FAA’s federal “Airport Improvement Program,” which is comprised mainly of fuel taxes and airline passenger fees. Two consecutive FAA discretionary grants have been awarded. The first is funded at 100%; the second at 90% FAA, 5% Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and 5% is the responsibility of the Town. MDOT funds come from the State Transportation Trust Fund. The total cost for this project is around \$9 million.

Once completed, the new Runway 14/32, while no longer than before, will be compliant with the latest FAA runway safety area and surface standardization regulations. These improvements, combined with an optimized runway surface, will contribute to enhanced pilot situational awareness and improved overall operational safety.



Ocean City Police Department Equipped with Body-Worn Cameras



The Ocean City Police Department (OCPD) is now fully equipped with body-worn cameras. All sworn law enforcement personnel and Public Safety Aides assigned to patrol can be seen wearing a body-worn camera.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that mandated all Maryland law enforcement agencies use body-worn cameras by 2025. Chief Buzzuro quickly tasked members of the department with the job of researching the best vendor fit for the department. After several months of testing and evaluations, OCPD selected Axon as the Town’s vendor. The Department worked hard to ensure that all officers were trained, and the necessary equipment ready, so that by June 2022 all

OCPD personnel in the field were equipped with and qualified to use body-worn cameras.

Chief Buzzuro, with the Mayor and City Council’s enthusiastic encouragement and support for the body-worn camera program, was instrumental in implementing the program so quickly. It’s expected that the body-worn camera program will help to enhance the existing trust and relationship between the community and the police by greatly enhancing transparency and the community’s confidence in the OCPD. With over 47,000 videos recorded since Memorial Day, the cameras have already been instrumental in promoting de-escalation and enhancing the ability to resolve officer-involved incidents and complaints.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial information in this report distinguishes functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, **governmental activities**, from **utilities** and **business services**, which are intended to cover their costs primarily from user fees and charges. The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, general public works and beach maintenance, sanitation and waste removal, highways and streets, economic development (tourism), recreation and culture, and construction of capital assets. The utilities and business services of the Town include water, wastewater, transportation, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the Ocean City Municipal Airport, and Eagle’s Landing Golf Course.

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities such as police and public safety, solid waste collection, and other community services are supported by taxes and revenues from residents, visitors, the federal government, the State of Maryland, and Worcester County, as the fees collected by each activity generally do not cover all of the activity’s expenses.

The following table shows where the money for governmental activities came from and how it was spent during the last two fiscal years:

Sources of Money for Governmental Activities

REVENUE	2022	2021
Program revenue:		
Charges for services	\$ 19,166,957	\$ 16,375,491
Operating grants and contributions	3,753,811	4,145,643
Capital grants and contributions	732,217	164,623
General revenue:		
Property taxes	44,762,217	44,753,212
Other taxes	26,313,664	22,049,614
Grant & contributions not restricted to specific programs	3,808,700	10,687,803
Other revenue	995,290	1,208,640
Total revenue	\$ 99,532,856	\$ 99,385,026

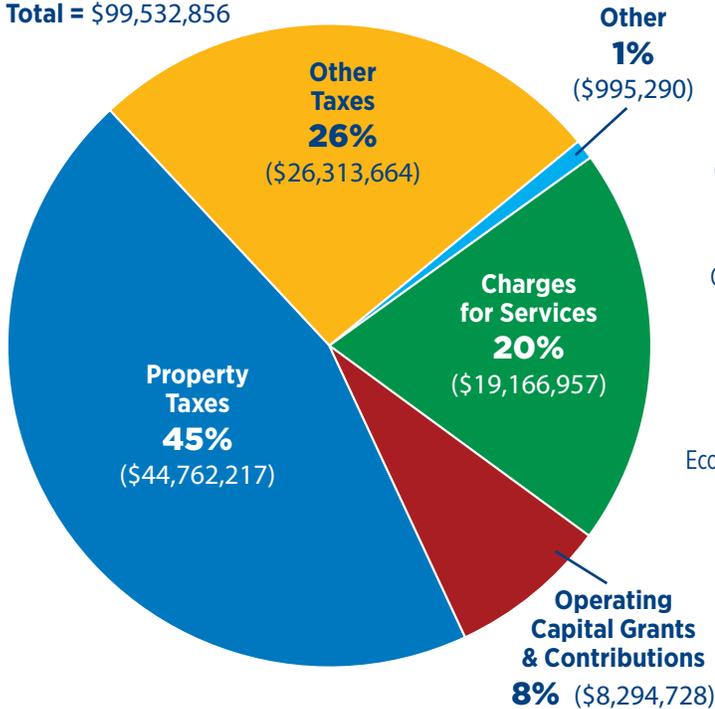
Uses of Money for Governmental Activities

EXPENSES	2022	2021
General government	\$ 686,237	\$ 258,640
Public safety	41,853,089	36,162,036
General public works & beach	8,436,145	7,565,437
Sanitation & waste removal	7,432,443	6,856,099
Highways & streets	9,215,575	7,578,264
Economic development - tourism	7,801,066	7,300,049
Recreation & culture	8,613,369	7,691,127
Interest on long-term debt	1,569,129	1,322,736
Total expenses	\$ 85,607,053	\$ 74,734,388
Change in net position before transfers	13,925,803	24,650,638
Transfers to other funds	(2,688,681)	(3,848,044)
Change in net position	\$ 11,237,122	\$ 20,802,594

Allocation of Governmental Activities' Revenue By Source

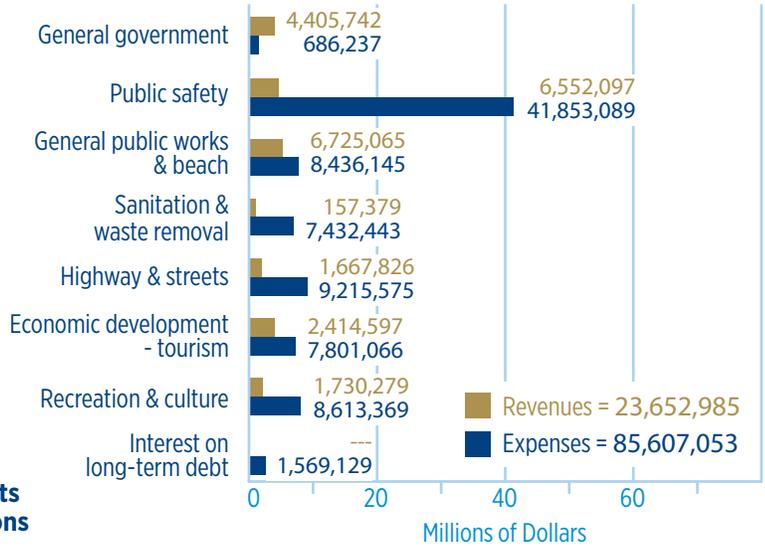
The following chart illustrates the allocation of governmental activities' revenue by source:

Total = \$99,532,856



Service Fees & Expenses of Governmental Activities

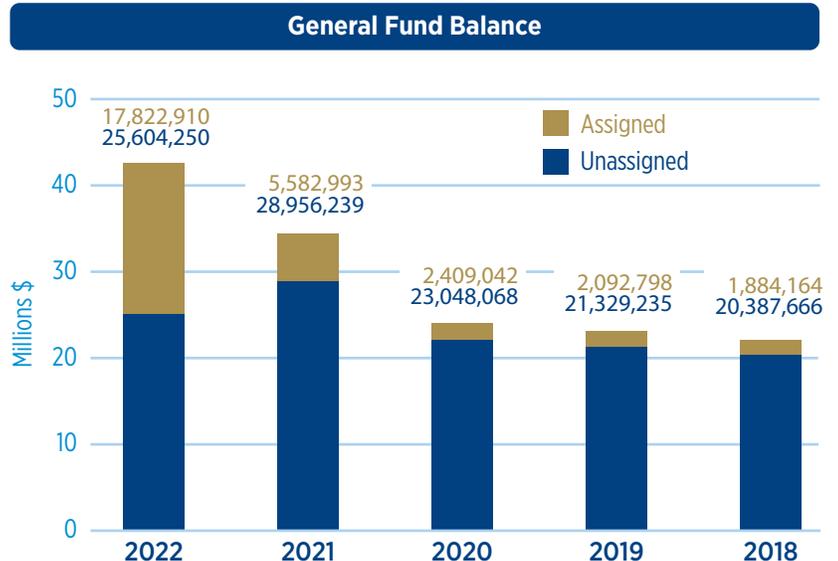
The following graph indicates the service fees and expenses of governmental activities, showing the extent to which the governmental functions produce revenue to offset their program costs. Expenses not covered by direct program revenue and fees are covered primarily by taxes, licenses, and state and county-shared revenue.



The change in net position (similar to a private entity's "net income") for the Town's governmental activities during FY 2022 was an increase of \$11.2 million, which was a decrease from the \$20.8 million increase in net position during the prior fiscal year. While some revenues, such as the aforementioned room taxes, increased in the current fiscal year, grants from other governmental agencies decreased during FY 2022, and expenses for governmental activities increased by nearly \$11 million in the current fiscal year. The increase in expenses was largely due to higher personnel costs, including costs related to funding the Town's two pension plans, which is explained later in this report.

Readers of the Town's financial statements are often interested in analyzing the performance and fund balance of the General Fund, which is the primary fund that supports the governmental activities of the Town. Financial reporting for the General Fund focuses on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources, which is useful in evaluating the Town's current financial needs. Fund balance is the difference between the assets (including future outflows) and liabilities (including future inflows) for governmental funds and is a key measure of financial health. There are five potential components to fund balance—*Nonspendable*, *Restricted*, *Committed*, *Assigned*, and *Unassigned*. The nonspendable portion cannot be spent, typically due to its form; restricted amounts often have external or legal limitations imposed on them; committed fund balance has been formally designated by the Town's governing body; the assigned portion is for planned uses; and the unassigned amount is everything that's left over and is available for future purposes and emergencies. The unassigned fund balance can be thought of as the General Fund's "savings account." It's the Town's policy to maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance equal to 17% of the General Fund's total annual expenditures. The unassigned fund balance percentage as of June 30, 2022, was 30.4%.

The following graph shows the Town's unassigned and assigned fund balances for the General Fund over the last five fiscal years:



Utilities & Business Services

The Town operates two utilities and four “businesses” and accounts for their activities similar to businesses in the private sector. Operating revenue and expenses result from providing services and delivering goods. The Water Fund operates the water treatment plants and distribution system; the Wastewater Fund operates the sewage treatment plant, pumping stations, and collection system; the Convention Center Fund accounts for the activities of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center; the Transportation Fund accounts for the operations of the Town’s bus system and boardwalk trams; and the Airport Fund and Golf Course Fund account for the operations of the Ocean City Municipal Airport and Eagle’s Landing Golf Course, respectively.

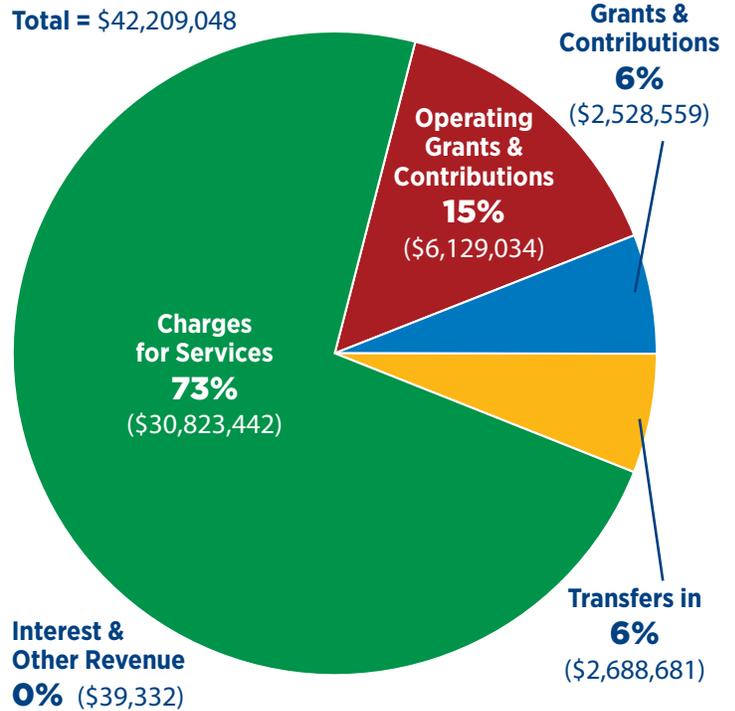
Sources & Uses of Money for Utilities & Business Services

The following table shows where the money for utilities and business services came from and how it was spent during the last two fiscal years:

SOURCES OF MONEY	2022	2021
Charges for services	\$ 30,823,442	\$ 26,682,400
Operating grants and contributions	6,129,034	5,230,089
Capital grants and contributions	2,528,559	7,239,346
Other revenue	39,332	49,507
Total revenue	39,520,367	39,201,342
USES OF MONEY	2022	2021
Water	6,759,912	5,600,246
Wastewater	12,854,591	11,284,560
Transportation	7,983,596	6,027,237
Convention Center	6,333,897	5,197,788
Airport	2,138,618	1,620,583
Golf Course	2,431,796	2,043,049
Total expenses	38,502,410	31,773,463
Change in net position before transfers	1,017,957	7,427,879
Transfers	2,688,681	3,848,044
Change in net position	\$ 3,706,638	\$ 11,275,923

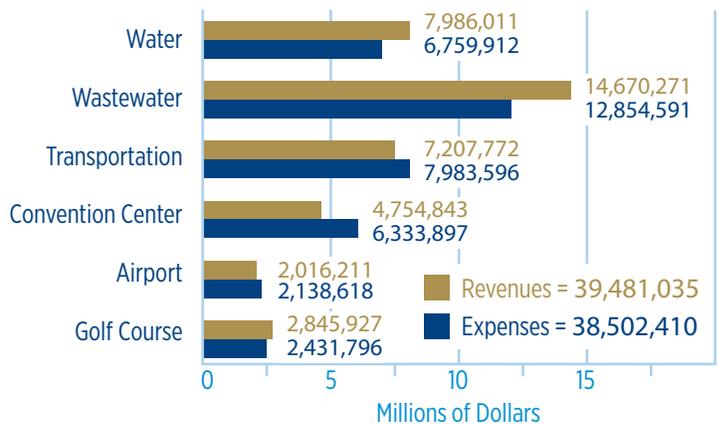
Allocation of Business-Type Activities' By Source

The following chart illustrates the allocation of business-type activities' revenue by source:



Degree to Which Expenses are Covered for Utilities & Business Services

The following graph indicates the degree to which expenses are covered by charges for services to customers, operating grants, and capital grants for utilities and business services. The Water, Wastewater, and Golf Course Funds were self-supporting and user fees, grants, or reserves covered all costs during FY 2022. The operations of the Transportation, Convention Center, and Airport Funds were subsidized by the General Fund.



The change in net position for the Town’s utilities and business services during FY 2022 was an increase of \$3.7 million, down from the \$11.2 million increase in the prior fiscal year. While operating revenue for most utilities and business services increased during FY 2022, capital grants for projects decreased nearly \$5 million from FY 2021. Operating expenses also increased by nearly \$7 million for additional staffing due to increased operations, higher fuel and supply costs, and additional repairs and maintenance performed during the current fiscal year.

WHAT WE OWE

The Town borrows most of the money that it spends for major capital improvements by selling general obligation bonds or from loans that do not require collateral. The Town's bonds have interest rates from 1.92% to 5.00% and are typically paid off in 10 to 20 years. At the end of FY 2022, the Town owed \$111,037,192 in debt principal. \$54,342,031 of the debt, or 49%, will be paid from service fees from business-type activities and the tax on food and beverages. At June 30, 2022, there was \$2,412,860 reserved from food tax receipts to pay principal and interest on bonds for the convention center included in the above amount. The remaining \$56,695,161 in debt principal will be paid from general tax revenues and fees.

Why sell bonds?

By selling bonds, especially tax-exempt offerings, the Town is able to obtain financing at favorable interest rates. This spreads the cost of projects over many years and ensures that taxpayers and those benefitting from a project pay it off during its useful life, as opposed to front-loading the total costs onto your tax bill in one year.

The Town has several pension plans that its employees participate in and has made a commitment to the employees to fund their future pensions. Employees contribute 5-9% of their pay to the plans and the Town funds its portion of the liability over a determined number of years. The Town also maintains an other post-employment benefit (OPEB) trust to fund retiree health benefits.

As mentioned previously in this report, a primary factor in the Town's increase in governmental activities' expenses during FY 2022 was costs related to the Town's pension plans. Depending on the plan, annual or biennial actuarial studies are done to evaluate each plan's terms, assumptions, expected-versus-actual experience, and to determine the annual Town contribution necessary to properly fund the plans over a prescribed period of time. The total Town liability for both pension plans increased substantially from FY 2021. Driven by changes in plan assumptions and benefit terms, the total pension liability for the two plans increased by nearly \$11.4 million during the current fiscal year. Investment losses of nearly \$22 million for the two plans also contributed to an increase in the net pension liability for the plans. The large increase in the Town's net pension liability is "smoothed" out over several years to reduce the financial impact; however, pension expenses increased approximately \$7.4 million for FY 2022, which was a key component of the Town's increase in expenses for the fiscal year. As of June 30, 2022, the net pension liability for the Town's pension plans was \$42,019,073 (a 428% increase from the prior fiscal year).

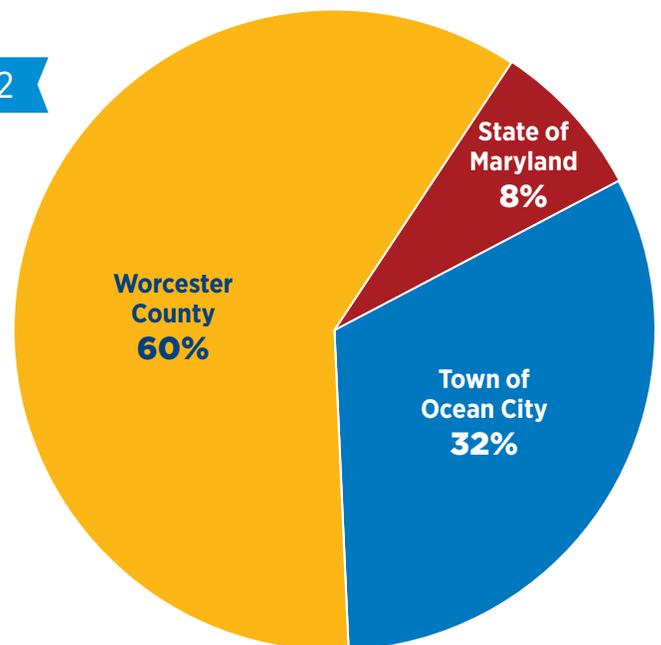
The OPEB plan also suffered sizeable investment losses in FY 2022, with a -15.26% return; however, the total OPEB liability decreased substantially due to favorable assumption changes and experience results, which led to a reduction in the Town's net OPEB liability of over \$12.5 million. This reduction created a net OPEB asset because the assets of the plan are more than enough to cover its projected liabilities. As of June 30, 2022, the net OPEB asset for the Town was \$6,249,510.

WHERE WE STOOD ON JUNE 30, 2022

Typical Town Taxpayer's Real Property Tax Bill Allocation

The chart to the right illustrates how a typical Town taxpayer's real property tax bill is allocated, based on the tax rates assessed by each jurisdiction:

The Town's *Statement of Net Position* provides a "snapshot" of where we stood financially on June 30, 2022, the last day of the fiscal year. Net position represents the Town's spendable resources and ownership (equity) in assets, such as the Town's land, infrastructure, and buildings. The following table summarizes the Town's net position by activity as of June 30, 2022:



STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	Governmental 2022	Business-Type 2022	Total 2022	Change from 2021
Cash and current assets	\$ 93,966,398	\$ 37,372,245	\$ 131,338,643	39.2 %
Capital assets	111,494,138	166,650,272	278,144,410	2.2
Future outflows of resources	23,681,856	4,958,512	28,640,368	2,221.7
<i>Current and future amounts "owned"</i>	<u>229,142,392</u>	<u>208,981,029</u>	<u>438,123,421</u>	19.2
Long-term liabilities outstanding	101,785,363	64,901,174	166,686,537	39.3
Other liabilities	12,073,900	5,494,441	17,568,341	22.8
Future inflows of resources	26,339,036	9,063,615	35,402,651	17.5
<i>Current and future amounts "owed"</i>	<u>140,198,299</u>	<u>79,459,230</u>	<u>219,657,529</u>	33.8
Equity (amounts "owned" less amounts "owed"):				
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	68,381,960	117,599,334	185,981,294	2.6
Restricted for paying debt	-	2,412,860	2,412,860	-17.5
Unrestricted	20,562,133	9,509,605	30,071,738	56.2
<i>Total equity</i>	<u>\$ 88,944,093</u>	<u>\$ 129,521,799</u>	<u>\$ 218,465,892</u>	7.3 %

OPERATING INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

General Information:

Year-round residents	6,900
Registered voters	6,765
Average summer population	290,575

General Government:

Construction permits issued	1,684
Estimated value of construction	\$ 67,413,855

Solid Waste:

Trash processed and recycled (tons)	35,581
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Transportation:

Bus passengers	1,297,940
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Wastewater:

Average daily treatment (gallons)	5,855,000
Avg. daily summer treatment (gals.)	9,859,000
Plant's daily capacity (gallons)	14,000,000

Tourism and Recreation:

Seasonal Beach Patrol personnel	185
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Fire and Emergency Services:

Fire responses	1,258
Ambulance responses	5,329
Fire Marshal inspections	1,859
Fire investigations	711
Volunteer Firemen, Life Honor, Gold Badge	223
Classified Emergency Medical Technicians/Fighters	50
Seasonal Emergency Medical Technicians	63

Public Safety – Police:

Total arrests	2,482
Parking violations	2,115
Classified officers	116
Seasonal officers	50

Water:

Average daily consumption (gallons)	3,900,000
Plant's daily capacity (gallons)	18,000,000

Easily Pay Bills Online

Visit www.oceancitymd.gov to check your utility & tax account balances or to pay these bills online.



Want Your Utility Bill Sent to Your Email?

If so, please email your **name, account #, email address & phone #** to myocwaterbill@oceancitymd.gov. Indicate if you would like the bill sent to your email only **OR** sent to your email & mailed a printed bill.





*Fall & Winter
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TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Newsletter



*Experience
Ocean City
this Fall & Winter!*

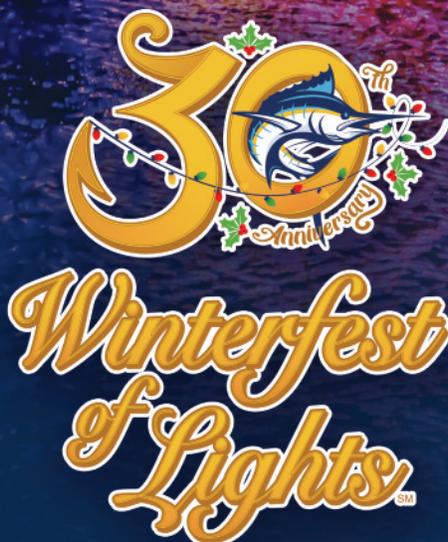
SPECIAL EVENTS

PG. 10-11

**Life-Saving Station
Museum Annex –**

A Downtown Boost

PG. 12



*Enhancing
Player Experiences
at Eagle's Landing
Golf Course*

PG. 13

**Ocean Bowl Skate
Park to Undergo
New Expansion**

PG. 14

A Walk-Through Holiday Event with Thousands of Sparkling Lights PG. 10-11

Experience Ocean City this Fall & Winter!

For an updated & complete events calendar, visit ococean.com/events

Check OCOcean.com or OceanCityMD.gov, call 800.OC.OCEAN (800.626.2326) or check the [Town of Ocean City Facebook page](#) for updated information and/or to confirm events before planning your visit. Events, dates, times and/or fees are subject to change. Some events are subject to closure for inclement weather.

November
2022

Fri 11 *Veterans Day* Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be closed.

Sat 12 *Storm Warriors 5K Run / Walk*

813 S. Atlantic Ave. 9am-11am. For more info: ocmuseum.org. This run takes place on the Boardwalk & will consist of an out-and-back course, perfect for the speediest of runners or those who just want a casual walk. Awards.

Sun 13 *New! Fiddler on the Roof* A beloved musical masterpiece!

OC Performing Arts Ctr, 41st St. 7pm. For more info: ocmdperformingartscenter.com. A wonderful cast & lavish orchestra tell a heartwarming story of fathers & daughters, husbands & wives, & the timeless traditions that define faith & family.



Thu 17 *Winterfest of Lights Opening Night Tree-Lighting Ceremony*

Northside Park, 125th St. 5:30-9:30pm. For more info, call 410.250.0125. FREE ADMISSION tonight only. OC's original holiday light show returns as an outdoor, walking tour. Celebrate as we light the 50-foot Christmas tree!

Nov 18 thru Dec 31 *30th Annual! Winterfest of Lights*

Northside Park, 125th St. Wed-Sun 5:30-9:30pm. For more info, call 410.250.0125. A walk-through holiday event with thousands of sparkling holiday lights & many animated light displays. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa, visit the gift shop & enjoy the array of holiday exhibits! Watch the 50-foot Christmas tree put on a show! Pets are welcome on Wednesdays! Admission: \$6/guest (12 years & older), FREE for 11 years & younger.

Sat 19 *Turkey Trot Open Golf Tournament* eagleslandinggolf.com, 410.213.7277

Sat 19 *New! Bill Engvall "Here's Your Sign - It's Finally Time" The Farewell Tour*

OC Performing Arts Ctr, 41st St. 2 shows: 5pm & 8pm. For more info: ocmdperformingartscenter.com. A Grammy-nominated, multi-platform selling recording artist, Bill is one of the top U.S. comedians & has a recurring role on the hit FOX sitcom *Last Man Standing* playing Rev. Paul.



Thu 24 *Thanksgiving* Town of OC's administrative offices will be closed Thu, 11/24 & Fri, 11/25 in observance.

Fri-Sun 25-27 *40th Annual! Holiday Shoppers Fair*

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 41st St. & Coastal Hwy. Unique merchandise as well as handmade products, nautical, candles, photography, florals, jewelry, ceramics. Great gifts & household items. Children's activities & face painting. Over 150 Vendors! Free parking, food court, non-shoppers lounge & door prizes.

Wed 30 *New! Hairspray* An award-winning musical!

OC Performing Arts Ctr, 41st St. 7pm. For more info: ocmdperformingartscenter.com. Set in 1962 Baltimore, teenager Tracy Turnblad's wins a dream role on a local TV dance program. Becoming a celebrity overnight, she campaigns for social change & the show's integration.



...Winterfest of Lights continues thru Dec. 31!

Sat 3 *Ocean City Christmas Parade*

Old Landing Rd. (104th St.) North to 120th St. 11am. Bring chairs, blankets & arrive early to park & get your viewing spot. Coastal Hwy. southbound lanes are closed in that general area to allow spectators to gather curbside. After parade, join us at the Carousel Oceanfront Hotel for family-friendly fun & free photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Sun 25 *Christmas* Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be closed Fri, 12/23 & 12/26 in observance.

Fri 30 *New Date! Mayor's New Year's Concert*

OC Performing Arts Ctr, 41st St. To kick off 2023, the Mayor & OC Council will host a concert featuring the Greatest Piano Men. All residents & visitors are welcome! After a brief meet & greet with elected officials & community partners, the concert will begin. Tickets: \$30, \$35. All proceeds go to the Ocean City Paramedic Foundation.

December
2022

Dec
2022

Sat 31

Winterfest of Lights New Year's Eve Fireworks Show & Celebration

Northside Park, 125th St. 5:30pm-9:30pm. Midnight fireworks display will be accompanied by live entertainment. Admission: \$6/guest (12 years & older), FREE for 11 years & younger.

January
2023

Sun 1

New Year's Day Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be **closed Mon, 1/2** in observance.

Sat 7

New Year's Knock Out Golf Tournament eagleslandinggolf.com, 410.213.7277

Mon 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be closed.

February
2023

Wed 1

OC Rec & Parks Summer Camp registration open for OC residents / property owners - camps.oceancitymd.gov

Sun 12

Super Bowl Scramble Golf Tournament eagleslandinggolf.com, 410.213.7277

Tue 14

Valentine's Day OC Rec & Parks Summer Camp reg. open for non-residents - camps.oceancitymd.gov

Valentine Dinner Dance for Seniors Clarion Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, 101st St.

For more info, visit oceancitymd.gov or call 410.250.0125. (\$)

Mon 20

Presidents' Day Town of Ocean City's administrative offices will be closed.



Thu-Sun 2-5

7th Annual! Ocean City Film Festival ...with monthly film screenings & events throughout OC!

OC Center for the Arts, 94th St. For more info: ocmdfilmfestival.com, 410.524.9433. Showcases local & regional filmmakers of every background & genre, promoting & prioritizing uniqueness & diversity in its selections.

March
2023

Sat 11

St. Patrick's Scramble Golf Tournament eagleslandinggolf.com, 410.213.7277

Sat 11

Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Festival

Festival 11am-4pm: 45th St. Parking Lot, Parade 12-2pm: 58th St. South to 45th St. For more info: delmarva.ireland.org. Rain or shine! Maryland's largest St. Pat's Parade. Irish Festival features food, beer, Irish coffee & more.

Wed 15

St. Patty's Bingo for Seniors OC Senior Center, 41st St. 10am-12pm.

For more info, visit oceancitymd.gov or call 410.250.0125.

Fri 17

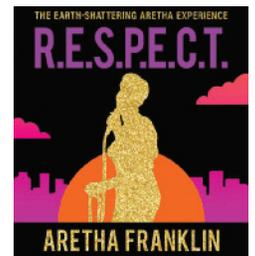
St. Patrick's Day

Tue 21

New! R.E.S.P.E.C.T. – A Tribute to Aretha Franklin

OC Performing Arts Ctr, 41st St. 7pm. For more info: ocmdperformingartscenter.com.

From the producers of "The Simon & Garfunkel Story." The Aretha experience like no other! The ultimate tribute & celebration of the legendary queen of soul. Tickets: \$85, \$75, \$65.



Date T.B.A.

Town of Ocean City Job Fair Exclusively for the Town of Ocean City!

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 41st St. & Coastal Hwy. For more info: oceancitymd.gov. Candidates of all experience levels are encouraged to attend. Hiring Departments: Beach Patrol, Convention Center, Public Works Maintenance & Construction, Recreation & Parks, Solid Waste & Transportation. **Also see back cover**

April
2023

Sat 8

Easter Bunny Egg Hunt

Northside Park, 125th St. 1-3pm. Register at ococean.com. Celebrate the season by enjoying this fun hunt for eggs with treats! For kids ages 2-10. Advanced registration is encouraged as they accept a limited number of participants & this event typically sells out. (\$)

Sun 9

Easter

Life-Saving Station Museum Annex – A Downtown Boost



Efforts to transform a historic downtown building into a museum received a major boost with the receipt of two grants totaling \$400,000 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Strategic Demolition funding was awarded to the Town to renovate the former Bank of Ocean City building located at 217 South Baltimore Avenue. Upon completion of the exterior rehabilitation, the structure will once again closely resemble the original turn-of-the-century Atlantic coast architectural style.

The building was originally constructed in 1910 as a general store. It was later used as a residence and boarding house. In 1916 the building was purchased by the Bank of Ocean City, and the exterior was extensively modified. The Bank of Ocean City maintained its Downtown branch for over 100 years until 2019 when it was donated to the Town to be used as a museum.

The \$150,000 DHCD Strategic Demolition grant will be coupled with \$25,000 donations from the Ocean City Development Corporation and the Bo Ruggerio Memorial Fund to fund the façade revitalization. The goal is to transform the iconic downtown building into a museum and educational center.

Fall & Winter Recreation Programs in Full Swing

The fun continues after summer! Ocean City Recreation and Parks offers programs, events, and tournaments for all ages throughout the fall and winter!

Kids can find themselves immersed in sports and activities, including soccer, basketball, babysitting courses, cheerleading, mid-nighters, and more.

Plus, there's plenty of fun & fitness for adults and seniors as well! Stay active with pickleball, aerobics, cardio, water aerobics, yoga, dance, Tai Chi, soccer, softball, flag football, basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, bowling, walking, and more.

For more info or to register for programs, classes, activities, or tournaments – plus, view the latest edition of *Splash!* magazine – visit oceancitymd.gov/rec.



Take Your Furry Friends to the OCEAN CITY DOG PLAYGROUND

The Ocean City Dog Playground is a fully-fenced area designed to give dogs a safe space to run and enjoy the outdoors in Ocean City! Open from dawn to dusk, the playground features a large pavilion, open dog area, small dog area, double fence entry, dog agility obstacles, yard hydrants, benches for humans, pet waste disposal stations, and doggie pool.

A Dog Playground Registration Application Form must be submitted in-person at Northside Park (200 125th St.) in order to obtain the physical pass card needed to gain access to the park. Applications are available at the Northside Park Main Office (Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) or download at oceancitymd.gov/rec. In addition to the completed form, a current rabies vaccination certificate from your veterinarian is required.

Current rates are: 1-Day Pass \$10, 3-Day Pass \$20, 7-Day Pass \$25, Annual (resident) \$50, Annual (non-resident) \$100.

For more information, visit oceancitymd.gov/rec or call 410.250.0125.



Enhancing Player Experiences at

Eagle's Landing Golf Course

Eagle's Landing, the Town of Ocean City's premier golf course, is now over 30 years old, and has proven to be an excellent local amenity, attracting visiting players as well as servicing local interests. Since its opening on July 1, 1991, the course has hosted over one million rounds of golf, and as anything would that has experienced hard use and age, some infrastructure improvements are needed to help Eagle's Landing maintain its exceptional reputation of providing one of the most enjoyable golf experiences in the area.

With the goal of enhancing player experiences by way of necessary improvements, the Town has retained McDonald Design Group and GMB Engineering to develop a master plan for course renovation to address tidal flooding challenges, green and fairway drainage, and outfall replacement. Additionally, the evaluation of sand bunker renovation, pond and tee box enhancement, and re-grassing fairways will be conducted with recommendations incorporated into the plan.

Once the master plan for renovation is completed in 2023, it will be evaluated for execution. Ultimately, the result of these executed improvements will not only enhance Eagle's Landing's already high-ranking standing in the Ocean City golf marketplace, but will set the bar for it to continue its reign as the crown jewel of Ocean City golf for the next 30 years.



Eagle's Landing Golf Course is a beautiful seaside golfing paradise with a sweeping vista of land, water, and sky. Located just minutes from Ocean City (at 12367 Eagles Nest Road in Berlin, Maryland), Eagle's Landing overlooks the serene Sinepuxent Bay and the unspoiled beauty of Assateague Island National Seashore. The course features 18 holes, par 72, on-site restaurant, golf carts, club rentals, pro shop, PGA pro, and **annual tournaments**:

Turkey Trot Open – Sat, November 19, 2022

New Year's Knockout – Sat, January 7, 2023

Super Bowl Scramble – Sun, February 12, 2023

St. Patrick's Scramble – Sat, March 11, 2023

Call Eagle's Landing at 410-213-7277 for more information or go to eagleslanding.com.

Continuing to Wow the Crowds

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) is Ocean City's premier entertainment venue. Located in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the state-of-the-art theater



offers an intimate setting for concerts, musicals, dance performances and, more.

Whether you choose balcony or orchestra seating, there

isn't a bad seat in the house. Sign up for Performing Arts Center E-News at ocmdperformingartscenter.com.

Be sure to check out new and upcoming shows at the PAC, including **Fiddler on the Roof** (Nov. 13), **Bill Engvall "Here's Your Sign – It's Finally Time" The Farewell Tour** (Nov. 19), **Hairspray** (Nov. 30) and **R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - A Tribute to Aretha Franklin** (March 21). Also see pages 10-11 for more details on these shows.

For more show information or to purchase tickets, visit ocean.com.

Beautification Committee's Reflections of Life Project

Every spring and fall, the Ocean City Beautification Committee presents a special offer to the public for the committee's Reflections of Life project. The project provides a distinctive means of recording important events and interests in the lives of individuals, their loved ones and businesses by placing a gift of a bronze, silver, or gold leaf or stepping stone on the impressive "Reflections of Life" metal tree sculpture mounted inside the lobby entrance of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. The leaves may commemorate any of the following suggestions: In Memory, In Tribute, In Celebration of an Anniversary, or In Honor of a Graduation. Tax-deductible donation forms are available at two locations in the convention center (at the project site near the main entrance and in the visitor center) and at Northside Park (125th St.). Forms can also be found at oceancitymd.gov.

For more information, call 410.250.0892.



OCEAN BOWL SKATE PARK TO UNDERGO NEW EXPANSION



The world's oldest operating municipal skate park will be undergoing a new expansion! Located on 3rd Street and St. Louis Avenue, Ocean Bowl Skate Park offers skateboarders and in-line skaters of all ability levels an exceptional OC experience. The 17,000 sq. ft., concrete-based park takes advantage of every inch of space, with transitions allowing flow from one end of this "carvable" park to the other. The bowl and vert ramp offer smooth riding surfaces and the mini-ramp and bird bath continue to be user favorites. Parents/legal guardians are required to register their children under the age of 18 years. All skaters must complete a waiver form prior to participating. Skaters must wear required safety gear (available for rent). Scooters are permitted in the park during weekend morning hours.

The park's hours of operation from November 2022 to March 2023 are weekdays 2:00 p.m.-dark (closed on Wednesdays) and weekends 9:30 a.m.-dark; weather permitting and subject to change without notice due to weather or construction.

Due to the pending construction and closure of the park, annual passes are not available at this time. However, modified membership passes with expiration dates (to be determined) will be offered. Current pass prices are: Weekday Daily Pass \$12, Weekday Winter Daily Pass \$6 (November-March), Weekend Daily Pass \$15, Weekday Morning Pass \$6, Weekend Morning Pass \$8 and Weekly Pass \$42.

For more info on hours and park passes, call 410.289.BOWL (2695) or visit oceanbowl.com.



Sign-up for the Trespass Enforcement Authorization Program (T.E.A.P)

Leaving your property or business this fall and winter? The Ocean City Police Department encourages businesses and property owners/managers whose business does not stay open 24/7/365 to sign-up for the Trespass Enforcement Authorization Program (T.E.A.P).

This program allows officers from the Ocean City Police Department to effectively and efficiently address peace and good order issues on private property, such as

trespassing laws on the participating properties. This is especially important during nighttime hours when contacting owners and managers is inherently problematic and inconvenient.

If you are interested in signing up for the T.E.A.P program, please visit: oceancitymd.gov/pdf/TEAP.pdf to complete the required forms.

Thinking of Renting Property in Ocean City?

As an Ocean City homeowner who may be considering renting their property, it's important to understand how the laws, ordinances, and code work in our resort community. It is your responsibility to follow specific requirements, including obtaining a rental license before you list your property or accept guests. If you already have a rental license, continue to renew each year before the expiration date. Rental applications for new properties may be obtained at City Hall, on the website at oceancitymd.gov or by contacting 410.289.8833.

It is mandatory for anyone renting their property, either personally, through a rental agent, or by using an online vacation rental website (example: VRBO, Airbnb, Home Away), to first obtain an Ocean City rental license and noise permit (Section 14-174 and Section 30-401 Code of the Town of Ocean City).

The license is effective from May 1, 2022 to April 31, 2023.

Keep in mind, if you own more than one property in the city limits of Ocean City, MD, you will need to complete a

rental license application for each property you are renting.

As a reminder, any property owner found in violation of these codes shall be fined no less than \$500 per day and no more than \$1,000.00 per day for each offense (Section 14-62 Code of the Town of Ocean City). Note: A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day which a violation occurs or continues.

Along with a rental license and noise permit, all rental revenue is subject to 5% county room tax (paid directly to Worcester County) and 6% state sales tax (paid directly to the State of Maryland) each month. (Note: For property owners renting their property for more than four months and one day consecutively to the same person, you are not required to pay room tax to Worcester County, Maryland).

Properties that may be in violation of their rental license(s) or in violation of safety, building, or health department code should be reported to the Ocean City Property Review and Enforcement Strategies for Safe-Housing (P.R.E.S.S) Committee at 410.289.8855.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION

Atlantic Hurricane Season is June 1 – Nov. 30. Emergency Managers are counting on you to be prepared & do the right thing to keep yourself & your family out of dangerous situations. KNOW YOUR ZONE & DIVISION & have a plan for where you will go should something happen during hurricane season & beyond. Also remember to have your address clearly marked (inside & outside) for emergency responders & family members, renters or guests of your home. To stay informed, citizens & visitors should follow the Town's social media channels & **subscribe to Emergency Alerts at oceancitymd.gov/news**.

FIRST RESPONDERS CAN COME TO MY OCEAN CITY ADDRESS

<small>check one</small>	MY PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN DIVISION		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Division 1	RED	Inlet to 33rd St.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Division 2	YELLOW	33rd St. to 62nd St.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Division 3	BLUE	62nd St. to 100th St.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Division 4	ORANGE	100th St. to DE Line

MY PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN EVACUATION ZONE

<small>check one</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZONE A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZONE B

TO FIND YOUR ZONE, visit oceancitymd.gov/knowyourzone and click on "View interactive map." (The zone letters [A & B] are determined by the possible flood inundation levels where you live. Emergency Managers use flood inundation, tidal surge and winds to determine potential risk to various communities throughout town, specifically in a storm or emergency.)

What You Need to Know to Protect Your Property From Flooding

The Town of Ocean City is reminding property owners to understand your vulnerability to flooding and take the proper steps in advance to protect your family and your home. Located on a barrier island, many Ocean City properties are at risk from coastal flooding, storm surge, and high winds. The Town of Ocean City is concerned about repetitive flooding and has an active and ongoing program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding. **Here are some things you can do:**

1. Check with the Planning and Community Development Department (Building Department) at City Hall on the extent of past flooding in your area.

Department staff can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, how the City manages it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. The staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives, and provide information regarding flood risk zones, base flood elevation, approximate flood depth and copies of elevation certificates on file. Contact by phone: (410) 289-8855, website: www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/contact-us or email: bneville@oceancitymd.gov.

2. Prepare for flooding by doing the following:

- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
- Make a household inventory, especially of ground level contents.
- Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc., in a safe place.
- Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc., in a handy place.
- Develop a disaster response plan. See the Red Cross' website at www.redcross.org for information about preparing your home and family for a disaster.
- Get a copy of *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. We have copies at the Building Department or it can be found on the Red Cross' website, too.

3. Consider some permanent flood protection measures.

- Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
- Check your building for water entry points, such as first floor windows and doors, the crawlspace, and dryer vents. These may be protected with low walls or grading for positive drainage away from the structure, however do not block or obstruct required foundation flood vents.
- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power to the lowest levels before a flood can reduce property damage and save lives.

- More information can be found at FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods.

- Note that some flood protection measures may need a building permit and others may not be safe for your type of building, so be sure to talk to the Building Department first. Contact the Department of Planning and Community Development by phone (410) 289-8855, or Bill Neville – Floodplain Manager bneville@oceancitymd.gov.

4. Talk to the Building Department for information on financial assistance that may be available through FEMA.

- If you are interested in elevating your building above the flood level, a Federal grant may be available to cover 75% of the cost.
- Get a flood insurance policy – it will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases, it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.

5. Get a flood insurance policy.

- Effective October 1, 2021, FEMA will implement Risk Rating 2.0 to establish flood insurance premiums. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.
- Homeowner's insurance policies alone do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Our community participation in the Community Rating System may also qualify your property for a reduction of the insurance premium.
- Usually flood insurance policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in Ocean City, there may also be damage to the furniture and contents. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect. More information can be found at the NFIP website, www.floodsmart.gov.

Inside



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**Mayor & City Council
Town of Ocean City**

P.O. Box 158
Ocean City, MD 21843

ococean.com
oceancitymd.gov
800.OC.OCEAN (800.626.2336)

    @TownofOceanCity

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Live Here. Work Here. Play Here.

Seasonal & Year-Round Job Opportunities

To learn more about these job openings & all other job opportunities with the Town of Ocean City, visit oceancitymd.gov

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL (OCBP) Lifeguards (SRTs):

The OCBP will hold pre-employment physical skills evaluations at several off-site locations March through April with the last test for the 2023 season in Ocean City on Saturday, June 3. There are no pre-certification requirements and experience in ocean rescue is not necessary to apply. All training and certifications will be provided during a paid (\$18.44 hr) training course. Visit oceancitymd.gov/ocbp.

2023 Testing Dates & Locations:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| March (date TBA) | Salisbury, MD | April (date TBD) | Salisbury, MD |
| March (date TBA) | York, PA | April (date TBD) | Ocean Pines, MD |
| March (date TBA) | Annapolis, MD | Sat, June 3 | Ocean City, MD |



**OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (OCPD)
Police Officers, Dispatchers & Public Safety Aids:**

Seasonal Officers, Dispatchers and Public Safety Aids are temporary employees who supplement the year round police force in its mission to the community. This assignment gives college-level criminal justice and other qualified and interested persons the chance to experience first-hand the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement. Applicants will be able to apply for full-time as well. For more info on testing and/or job opportunities, visit joinocpd.com.

2022 Testing Dates:
November 19-20
December 17-18

2023 Testing Dates:
January 7-8
January 28-29
February 18-19



**OCEAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT (OCFD)
Firefighters, EMTs & Paramedics:**

The OCFD is looking for firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics. We are currently offering part-time and volunteer positions. A career with the OCFD brings a distinctive way of life with its challenges and rewards. The OCFD provides multiple opportunities for folks to stop by the station, take a tour, or even ride along to see what we do every day. For more info, visit ocvfc.com.

2022 Testing Dates:
December 2 & 3

2023 Testing Dates:
February 24 & 25



OCEAN CITY PUBLIC WORKS

Bus Drivers, Tram Drivers, Beach Tractor Operators, Solid Waste Drivers:

Do you love the sights and sounds of OC? Spend your summer days taking in the beach and Boardwalk views as an employee of the OC Public Works Department. Don't worry - we offer paid training to get you the qualifications you need! Learn more at oceancitymd.gov.

